and posts under the Government of India at par with other OBC candidates.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Uniform Tribal Policy

4405. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to formulate a unifrom Tribal Policy for the country;

(b) whether the proposal has been pending with the Government since long;

(c) if so, the steps taken to implement the above proposal; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) There is a uniform tribal policy in the country at present. The Tribal Sub-plan strategy has been formulated and is in operation since Fifth Five Year Plan. It has two pronged objectives, i.e. (i) socio-economic development of STs and (ii) protection of tribals against exploitation. This is in operation in 20 States/UTs viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, A & N Islands, Daman & Diu and Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The State Governments/UT Admns, are required to formulate the Tribal Sub- Plans. They are to quantify funds for Tribal Sub-Plan proportionate to ST population out of their Plan Budgets. Besides, Special Central Assitance is given to States for family income generating schemes and for infrastructural development incidental thereto. Funds available from different sources like State Plan, Central Schemes / Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Special Central Assistance and institutional finance are pooled together. There are 194 Integrated Tribal Development Projects. In addition, 250 Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) pockets and 77 clusters of tribal concentration have been identified.

Adoption of Children

4406. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of orphan children in the country;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to make suitable changes in the guidelines for adoption of Indian children;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to implement those guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) According of 1981 Census, the population of orphaned children below 14 years of age in the country is 37.59 million.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Welfare had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Justice Mr. P.N. Bhagwati, to revise and reformulate the existing guidelines on adoption. The salient features of the recommendations of the Task Force are given in the statement *(see below)*.

(d) The matter is under active examination.

Statement

The salient features of the main recommendations made by the Task Force are as follows:—

1. The role of the Central Adoption resource Agency, Ministry of Welfare.

(i) The original application/documents for adoption of Indian Child may be submitted by the foreign enlisted agencies directly to the recognised Indian placement agency with a photo copy to CARA. The CARA has to furnish the clearance certificate within the time frame viz. five weeks from the date of the receipt of the application to the concerned placement agency. As per existing guidelines, the foreign enlisted agencies are required to forward required application and document to CARA.

(ii) CARA may be registered under the Societies Registration Act and it shall be an autonomous body. In the exercise of its functions and powers it shall be independent of any control or interference by the Government of India save

and except in regard to matters of policy where it shall be bound to act in conformity with and in implementation of such policy decision of the Government of India.

2. Role of the State Government/U.T. Admns.

The State Government shall maintain a list of children's homes and adoption agencies working in the State. They shall also form an Advisory Committee on adoption to effectively supervise the adoption work and to carry-out the inspection of the adoption agencies.

3. Role of Recognised Indian agencies for adoption

The placement agencies shall make all out efforts to place a child in an Indian family according to a time-frme. The Voluntary Coordinating Agencies shall issue necessary clearance certificate in favour of a placement agency for pursuing inter-country adoption only if they fail to find an Indian family for the adoptive child.

4. Recognition of Indian Agencies

The State Government shall submit its recommendation on the application of renewal submitted by the placement agencies to the Central Adoption Resource Agency within a period of two months from the date of receipt of the applications. In the absence of any re-commendation from the State Government within the time frame, the concurrence of the State Government will be presumed by the Central Adoption Resource Agency and the application will be processed by Central Adoption Resource Agency for grant of recognition within maximum period of two months. If no response is received from the Central Adoption Resource Agency to the appli-cation by the placement agency within a further maximum period of two months or before the expiry of the recognition of the agency whichever is later, the renewal shall be deemed to have been granted for a period of two years.

5. Enlistment of Foreign agencies for adoption

(i) The request from the foreign agencies for the enlistment for the purpose of inter-country adoption shall be routed through the Indian Eimbassies/High Commission in their country. The recommendation of the Indian Embassies/High Commissions in their country will be taken into account while considering the request of the foreign agencies for enlistment by the Central Adoption Resource Agency.

6. Role of Voluntary Coordination Agencies

A time period for 60 days instead of 30 days shall be given to V.C.A. for putting their best efforts to place the child within the country and in case they fail they shall issue necessary clearance certificate to the placement agencies within a max- imum period of 60 days.

7. Role of Scrutinising Agencies

The Court may appoint any agency, being a body of experts in the field of child care and welfare not in itself involved in any manner in the placement of children in adoption as a scrutinising agency. The court shall have the power to appoint any other scrutinising agency recognised by CARA depending upon the situation.

8. Miscellaneous

It will be desirable for the Governemnt of India to enter into bilateral agreement with countries which are receiving chil- dren from India for the purpose of adop- tion and such bilateral agreements should provide for full coordination between the appropriate authorities of India and the receiving State and also for protection and safeguarding of the welfare of the children taken for adoption in the receiv-ing State.

जाति प्रमाण-पत्रों का जारी किया जाना

4407. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:

क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने दिल्ली में रह रहे अन्य राज्यों के पिछड़े वर्गों के व्यक्तियों को जाति प्रमाण जारी करने के लिये कोई कार्यवाही की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केसरी): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा 8 अप्रैल, 1994 को जारी अनुदेशों की एक प्रति विवरण के रूप में संलग्न है।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।